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SITUATION REPORT

POLAND

The Soviets, Poles, and East Germans yesterday announced plans to conduct a command staff exercise, Soyuz-81, in Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and the USSR during the last half of March.

The three announcements all attempted to play down the scope of the exercise. By calling Soyuz-81 a command staff exercise, the Soviets apparently have avoided the issue of notification under the Helsinki Accord, which requires that only major maneuvers with 25,000 or more troops be announced. We believe that field training involving considerably more than 25,000 troops will be included in the exercise.

If Soyuz-81 involves field training with 25,000 or more troops, it will be the first time they have held an exercise of this size without announcing it. Even though the Accord allows announcements of major maneuvers on short notice, the Soviets have in the past given at least three weeks' notice--a time suggested by the Accord. They also have voluntarily announced exercises that were only staff exercises or that involved fewer than 25,000 troops.

Domestic Political Developments

The government thus far seems to be taking in stride the one-hour warning strike yesterday in Lodz. Prime Minister Jaruzelski's meeting with Schlaarity leader Walesa yesterday subsequently was turned into a summit meeting of union leaders and top government officials.

The local Solidarity chapter continues to seek a written pledge allowing union activity at a hospital operated by the Ministry of Interior. The head of the police in Lodz earlier claimed that he lacked the authority to sign such a document. Reports from Warsaw later in the day suggest that Walesa resolved this issue with central government officials.

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Last night, according to Warsaw radio, the negotiators reached an agreement on returning to their jobs five workers who previously had been dismissed. At the same time, Solidarity of Lodz canceled its plans for protest actions and strikes.

Meanwhile, dissident leader Kuron's failure to report to the police in Warsaw yesterday presents the regime with a dilemma. If it takes additional action against him, it risks increasing tension with Solidarity. On the other hand, if it allows Kuron's action to stand, it may lose respect and find it more difficult to exert authority.